13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, sir, efforts are being made all over the country to protect the environment and it is a welcome step. Under environment protection the questions of checking air pollution and sound pollution are also included. We all know that how badly the sound pollution affects the people. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also have its experience.

Recently the Calcutta High Court has given a landmark judgement regarding sound pollution. It has been said that no loud speaker would be used in any public worship place from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. The High Court has also said that is should not be viewed from religious aspect. The Chief Minister Shri Jyoti Basu has also agreed to it and he has said that he would sort out this issue by calling a meeting of religious leaders.

In this regard I would like to urge upon the Home Minister also to call a meeting of the leaders of all political parties and religious leaders and take a decision that loudspeaker would not be used in any place of worship from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. It would provide relief to the people and the sound pollution could also be checked. The Government should come out with a statement in the House as to what it intends to do in this regard.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Chairman, sir, every Government is in a hurry to lay foundation stones. IN 1995 a foundation stone of a branch of Indian Instituted of Mass Communication was laid down in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh but till now no further work has been undertaken there. In that branch videography management and communication development works were to be stated. Therefore, I would like to request that either the work should be started immediately on the place where foundation stone was laid or if there is any difficulty, my constituency Indore is a well developed area where this work can be undertaken and I assure that all sorts of assistance would be given in this regard.

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Sir, the law and order situation in my border district of Karimganj in Assam is serious. Everyday dacoity, robbery, looting of public and private buses and smuggling of cows and buffaloes are going on unabated as if there is no administration at all.

The district police authority is hopelessly inactive to tackle the situation and what is most surprising is that dacoities are committed under the nose of the police.

The role of the State Government in this regard is, so to say, passive. Therefore, I would urge upon the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to look into the matter and to do the needful immediately.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the CBI has instituted an inquiry against some of the officials of the Vijaya Bank, including two ex-Chairman, Shri Sadanand Shetty and Shri Shivaram Shetty, for causing loss to the tune of more than Rs. 200 crore to the bank by illegally lending money to some of unscrupulous borrowers. Due to this reason, there is a great panic in the minds of the customers. There has been a paid withdrawal of deposits from the Vijaya Bank. The employees of the Vijaya Bank are also demoralised.

I demand from the Government that very stern action will have to be taken against all these erring ex-employees and the entire money should be recovered. It is understood that today the financial position of the Vijaya Bank is not in the red. So, to remove the panic from the minds of the customers, let there be a statement from the Reserve Bank or the Government that the Vijaya Bank is out of danger and stern action will be taken against all the erring officials including two ex-Chairmen for recovery of monetary loss which is caused to the Bank.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI (Srinagar) : Sir, due to militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, the number of educated unemployed youth has increased to a great extent. They are not getting employment there. They are very disappointed. Therefore, I would request the Central Government that they should be given employment in the Central Government departments located in the State so that there unemployment problem could be solved.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water in the entire district of Kolar in the State of Karnataka. There is no water to the cattle also. The ground water level has gone down to 500 to 600 feet. The ground water contains fluoride and it causes dental and bone disorder. The first step for the Government is to bring the level of ground water to at least 100 feet level. It can be done by desilting the tanks in the district which will favourably affect the underground water table. Then the water has to be purified before supplying it to the people. An experiment was conducted in this regard at two places, Muttur in Shidtaghatta Taluk and Chatra Kodahalli in Kolar Taluk. It was a great success. Water is available there at 100 feet ground level.

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* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.